COMMUNITY

Pages 8-9
Clark Park Balances Safety and Community

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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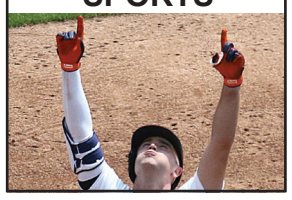
SPORTS



Page 10
Tigers Take Series vs Chicago Cubs!

Defensores de la inmigración piden condenar la detención de estudiante de Detroit por parte de ICE

Por Hannah Dellinger, Chalkbeat Detroit
Esta historia fue publicada originalmente por Chalkbeat. Suscríbase a sus boletines informativos en ckbe.at/newsletters

Maykol Bogoya-Duarte, un inmigrante indocumentado de 18 años, planeaba regresar a Colombia con su madre después de graduarse de la escuela secundaria Western International.

Con aproximadamente un semestre restante en la escuela, Maykol comenzó a hacer arreglos para salir de Estados Unidos.

Pero sus planes y su educación se vieron truncados el mes pasado cuando fue detenido por el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE). En lugar de terminar su penúltimo año esta semana, el adolescente se encuentra bajo custodia del gobierno federal y enfrenta un riesgo inminente de deportación, según su abogada.

continúa en la pág 5

Advocates call on Michigan Lawmakers to Condemn ICE Detention of Detroit Student

By Hannah Dellinger, Chalkbeat Detroit | This story was originally published by Chalkbeat. Sign up for their newsletters at ckbe.at/newsletters

Advocates are calling on Michigan lawmakers and school officials to condemn the immigration arrest of an 18-year-old Western International High School student. (Elaine Cromie / Chalkbeat)

Maykol Bogoya-Duarte, an 18-year-old undocumented immigrant, had planned to return to Colombia with his mother after he graduated from Western International High School.

With roughly one semester left in school, Maykol began making arrangements to leave the U.S.

But his plans and his education were upended last month when he was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE. Instead of finishing out his junior year this week, the teen is in custody of the federal government and faces an "imminent" risk of deportation, according to his attorney.

Immigration advocates are now calling on Michigan's

continues on p.5

"No Kings" Rally Planned at Clark Park and Across America, June 14th

This Saturday, June 14, Donald Trump is staging a military parade in Washington, D.C. to celebrate his birthday—a spectacle funded by taxpayers and designed to project strongman politics. In response, over 55 events across Michigan—from Holland on Lake Michigan to Port Huron on Lake St. Clair—will unite under the banner of "No Kings!" as part of a nationwide day of action.

Speakers will include community organizers, veterans, faith leaders, and elder activists standing up for democracy, social programs, and the constitutional balance of power. A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. All participants are urged to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with their values.

In America, we don't put up with would-be kings

NO KINGS is a national day of action and mass mobilization in response to increasing authoritarian excesses and corruption from Trump and his allies. We've watched as they've cracked down on free speech, detained people for their political views, threatened to deport American citizens, and defied the courts. They've done this – all while continuing to serve and enrich their billionaire allies.

The flag doesn't belong to Donald Trump. It belongs to all Americans. On June 14th, Americans who defend democracy will show up everywhere Trump isn't—to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings. Check out www.nokings.org for more information.

Join local Indivisible groups to say NO KINGS IN AMERICA including 'Stand Up Indivisible', 'Indivisible Metro Detroit', 'Macomb Defenders Rising', 'Indivisible Fighting 9', 'Eastside Indivisible Alliance', 'Ann Arbor Indivisible', 'Indivisible We the People Dissent' Indivisible Tri-County Coalition, Indivisible Downriver United 734, 50501MI, NAARPR, Detroit Anti-War Committee, General Strike Detroit, Detroit CAC, SDS Wayne State University, the ACLU and AFT.

Nearly 2,000 protest events are planned nationwide on June 14th for the National Day of Defiance and Mass Mobilization against would-be kings in America and will feature protest signs, American flags, community speakers, music, elder activists, and intergenerational participation.

Detroit Metro Area Highlights:

Clark Park in Southwest Detroit, 4301 W. Vernor Highway, Detroit, MI

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib will speak at 2:45 pm. Community organizers and leaders will speak, as well, to be followed by a march.

Wyandotte, MI, Wyandotte City Hall, 3200 Biddle Ave.

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and Congressman Shri Thanedar will headline the event.

For more information, visit www.nokings.org, www.mobilize.us/nokings or www.indivisible.org

"No Kings" Rally Metro Area Locations and Times:

City	Time	Location
Dearborn	1-3 pm	Dearborn Peace Park West, 22271 W Village Dr
Detroit	1-4 pm	Clark Park, 1130 Clark Ave
Farmington Hills	1-3 pm	Farmington Community Library, 32737 W 12 Mile Rd
Ferndale	1-3 pm	East 9 Mile Road & Woodward Avenue
Livonia	1-3 pm	Farmington Rd & Five Mile Rd
Novi	1-3 pm	Grand River Avenue & Novi Road
Romeo	1-3 pm	Romeo Trailside Bridge, 256 Clinton St
Troy	12-3 pm	East Big Beaver Road & Rochester Road
Waterford Twp	12-2 pm	5070 Highland Rd
Wyandotte	1-3 pm	Wyandotte City Hall, 3200 Biddle Ave

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2 **Faith and Sustainability**
Grace in Action Rain Garden

4 **Health**
Kronk Gym Reopens in Detroit

7 **Environment**
What to do about Poor Air Quality

8-9 **Clark Park**
Balancing Safety and Community

10 **Sports**
Tigers Take Series vs Chicago Cubs!

13 **Op Ed:**
Robert Reich: Trump Goes to War Against America

14 **World Cultures**
Nicaragua

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Faith and Sustainability: A Rain Garden on Sacred Ground

By Estefania Arellano-Bermudez | Photo and captions by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

Rich, dark soil winds around the front of Grace in Action's building, peppered with bright green plants stretching out toward the sun. Residents line the walkway to take home small pots of Ohio spiderwort, New England aster, golden Alexander, and more. The anise hyssop, in particular, has a fragrant licorice aroma that sticks to your fingertips.

Pastor John Cummings of Grace in Action – and residents - gathered last Thursday, June 5 to officially cut the ribbon to the rain garden, which had been planted in the fall of 2024. Pastor Cummings passed around plant springs dipped in holy water so the attendees could bless the rain garden.

Grace in Action on Lawndale is the latest activation site in a series of projects that aims to use green infrastructure to cut stormwater costs. Led by the National Wildlife Foundation and partnering with Sierra Club and Friends of the Rouge, the Sacred Ground initiative began in 2018 after a restructuring of Detroit drainage fees was enacted. This restructuring called for a fee for every acre of impervious surface, meaning a church with a parking lot could see an increase in stormwater costs.

"In Detroit you get a discount off of your drainage fee if you have certain kinds of green infrastructure that limits the amount of water that's going into the stormwater system. Rain gardens are a great way to do that," Erin Johnson said. She is the Community Organizer for the Sierra Club of Michigan.

Because the native plants chosen for these sites hold more water than grass, they are the best choice for absorbing water runoff. As a bonus, they provide food and habitats for pollinators. Access to nature is also an important benefit. Rain gardens provide green spaces for residents, like the ones tucked in close to the Grace in Action building.

"These rain gardens are a co-benefit type of project that not only attracts pollinators, but also helps with stormwater that is coming off the roofs, the parking lots, any type of non-pervious surface from entering into our combined sewage overflow," Tiffany Jones, Education and Engagement Manager at the National Wildlife Federation, said at the ribbon cutting of the rain garden. "We also know that these are places of enjoyment for young children to access nature."

Pastor Cummings was approached with the idea for the Grace in Action rain garden around 2022, Jones said.

"I was excited," said Pastor Cummings. "It's just really cool to see people learning about the native plants, how to care for them, help them to flourish, how it benefits the greater ecosystem, the cycle of life."

Detroit Resident Leticia Gonzalez, whose children attend guitar lessons and programming at Grace in Action, was in attendance on Thursday. She was also part of the community meetings regarding bringing the rain garden to the church.

"[Pastor] John asked for our opinion and the community said it was a good opportunity."

Sacred Grounds includes 20 Detroit sites such as Detroit Hope, Christ the King, Marygrove, and Gesu. There are 120 sites scattered throughout four cities – Detroit, Cleveland, Toledo, and Grand Rapids. Maintenance efforts and community education are supported as part of the program.

The financial backing comes from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"This project represents resilience, it represents joy, it represents beauty and so much more. So I'm just pleased and honored to make this a Sacred Ground site," said Johnson.

To learn more about Nonresidential Drainage Credits and how a rain garden could help offset stormwater costs, visit https://bit.ly/DetroitDrainageGuidelines.

Rev. John Cummings leads a blessing ritual during the rain garden celebration at Grace in Action Church in Southwest Detroit on June 5, 2025.

Community Volunteer Rhianna Morgan, wearing a bandana, assists visitors in identifying native plants. The garden includes species chosen for their ecological and medicinal value.

Estefania Arellano-Bermudez is a Latina freelance writer living in metro Detroit. She is a regular contributor to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and a member of Planet Detroit's Neighborhood Reporting Lab.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

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The legendary KRONK Gym announces reopening in Detroit !!!

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

All photos and story by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Mayor Duggan joined local leaders this week to announce that KRONK Gym is returning to Detroit this summer.

One of the most legendary names in boxing, KRONK Gym will be making its long-awaited return to the city since it closed due to COVID in 2020.

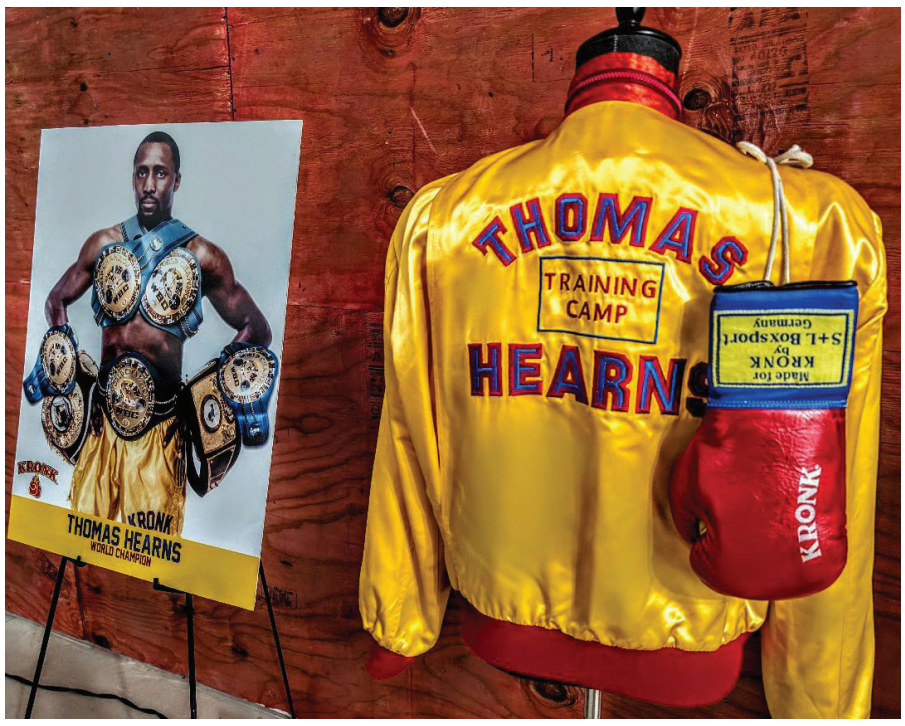
KRONK Gym was founded in Detroit by the legendary trainer Emanuel Steward and quickly rose to global prominence by developing champions like Thomas Hearns, Lennox Lewis, and Wladimir Klitschko.

The world-renowned training ground of champions will officially reopen its doors at the Brewster Wheeler Recreation Center at 670 Wilkins later this summer.

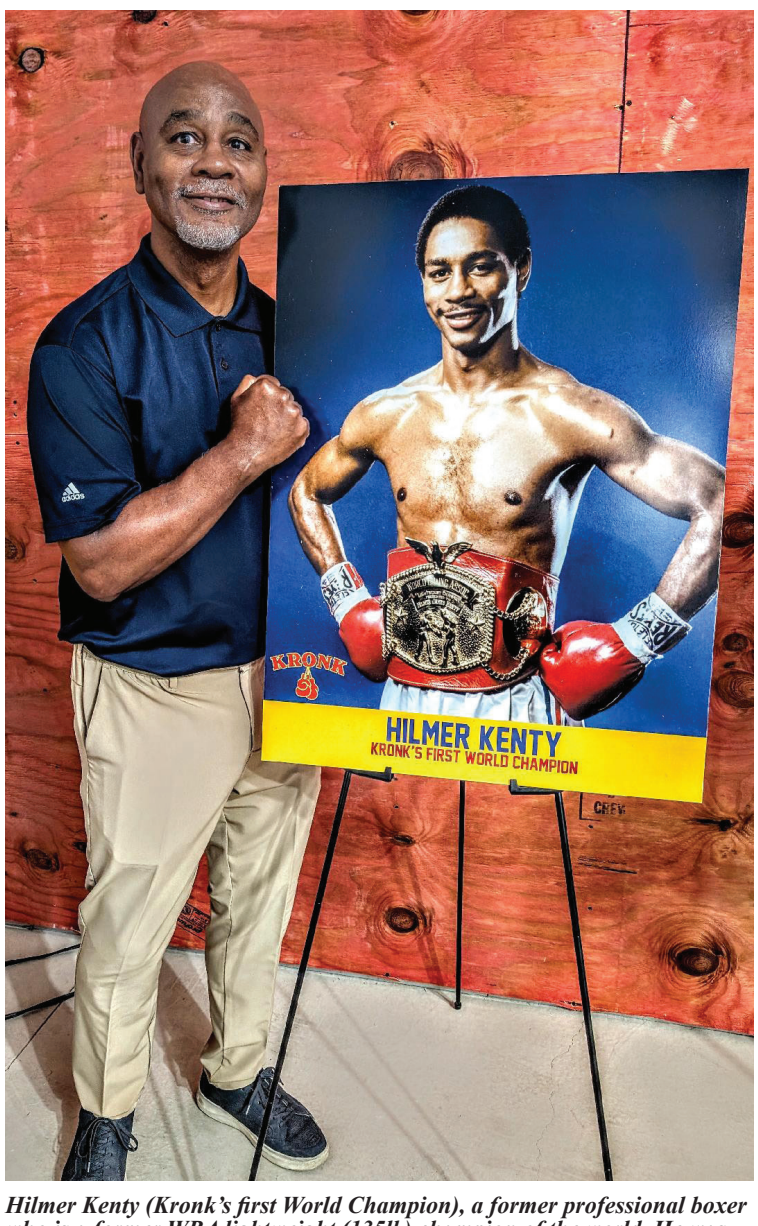
The new ownership, with the continued involvement of Steward's family members Marie Steward and Sylvia Steward-Williams and several of KRONK's original world champions, is committed to reigniting the spirit of its founder.

Photos below are from the media presentation

(L) Maria Steward (wife of Emanuel "Manny" Steward) and (R) Sylvia Steward-Williams (daughter) with photo of Emanuel Steward (founder of Kronk Boxing Gym)



Thomas Hearns memoribilia on display during media presentation



Hilmer Kenty (Kronk's first World Champion), a former professional boxer who is a former WBA lightweight (135lb) champion of the world. He was selected a member of the All-American AAU boxing team for 1973, and was named the top lightweight amateur boxer in the nation in 1973 by the National AAU Boxing Committee. His boxing record was 29 wins, 2 losses with 18 KOs. Kenty will serve as a representative for the new Kronk Boxing program

Brewster Wheeler Recreation Center at 670 Wilkins, will become the new home for Kronk Boxing Gym

(L-R) Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison (both wearing Kronk Boxing Gym jackets that were gifted to them at the media presentation), Paul Bhatti (at podium, CEO of Kronk Boxing Gym), and John Lepak (Chief Operating Officer of Kronk Boxing Gym), during media presentation

Detención de estudiante de Detroit por parte de ICE

Con't de pg. 1

Los defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes piden al gobernador de Michigan, a varios miembros demócratas de la delegación del Congreso estatal y a los líderes del distrito escolar de Detroit que luchen por la liberación de Maykol para que pueda completar sus estudios en Estados Unidos.

"En esta época del año, los estudiantes deberían centrarse en la graduación y el verano", dijo Ruby Robinson, abogada ejecutiva del Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (Centro de Derechos de los Inmigrantes de Michigan MIRC), quien representa a Maykol. "Y aquí tenemos a un estudiante en un tiempo crítico, que está siendo deportado. Debería poder terminar sus estudios".

A Maykol le faltan solo 3.5 créditos para graduarse, dijo Robinson, y probablemente podría terminar sus estudios hacia finales del año calendario.

Su abogada dijo que solicita su liberación y una suspensión de la deportación para completar sus estudios antes de regresar a Colombia.

Maykol fue arrestado el 20 de mayo después de intentar unirse a una excursión escolar en el Metropark del Lago Erie, a unos 40 kilómetros de Detroit. Mientras conducía con otros tres estudiantes, Maykol fue detenido por seguir de cerca a otro vehículo, dijo Robinson.

Al adolescente se le pidió su licencia de conducir, pero solo tenía una tarjeta de identificación de la Ciudad de Detroit. Michigan actualmente no emite licencias de conducir a inmigrantes indocumentados.

Los agentes de policía locales que detuvieron a Maykol no hablaban español y tuvieron dificultades para comunicarse con él, dijo Robinson, por lo que llamaron a la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP).

"Un aspecto importante de esta historia es que la policía local, en lugar de depender de servicios de traducción internos, dependía de agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza para que les interpretaran", dijo Robinson.

La práctica de llamar a la CBP para las detenciones de tráfico con personas que no hablan inglés podría interpretarse como discriminación racial, dijo el abogado.

Randy Krause, jefe del Departamento de Policía de Rockwood, no respondió de inmediato a una solicitud de comentarios.

Maykol, quien llegó a Estados Unidos a los 16 años, recibió una orden final de deportación en 2024. Posteriormente, Maykol trabajó con ICE y el Consulado de Colombia para obtener los documentos de viaje necesarios para salir del país, de acuerdo a su abogada.

"Cumplimos con la orden", dijo Robinson, añadiendo que los documentos son necesarios para abordar un avión y salir del país. "Generar esos documentos lleva tiempo".

Aún estaba gestionando su regreso a Colombia con su madre cuando fue arrestado. No está claro si habría podido graduarse antes de partir.

El lunes 9 de junio por la tarde, Robinson y la familia de Maykol desconocían su paradero. Creían que lo trasladarían del Centro Correccional del Condado de Chippewa a otro lugar la madrugada del lunes, según su abogada.

"Esperamos que cuando llegue a donde pasará la noche, podamos encontrarlo o que él pueda llamarnos a nosotros o a su madre", dijo Robinson.

La abogada nos explicó que, debido al alto número de personas detenidas por ICE, la agencia las ubica donde haya espacio disponible.

"Estamos viendo personas detenidas en zonas remotas de Michigan", dijo. "También vemos que se envía gente a Ohio y a otros lugares".

Defensores de derechos humanos exigen que los líderes de Michigan se pronuncien.

Para el lunes por la tarde, casi 900 personas habían firmado una petición pidiendo a las autoridades de Michigan que condenaran el arresto de Maykol, exigieran su liberación para que completara sus estudios de secundaria e implementaran políticas preventivas para brindar un mejor apoyo a los estudiantes y familias inmigrantes.

Tres grupos de defensa —482Forward, MI Students Dream y People's Assembly— crearon la petición.

Lindsey Matson, subdirectora de 482Forward, afirmó que la iniciativa de defensa busca concientizar sobre el problema y que la petición, si cobra fuerza, presionará a quienes tienen el poder de intervenir.

"Incluso una declaración de la junta escolar será útil", añadió Matson.

La petición exige la acción de la gobernadora Gretchen Whitmer, los senadores estadounidenses Gary Peters y Elissa Slotkin, los representantes de la Cámara de Representantes Shri Thanedar y Rashida Tlaib, y el Distrito Comunitario de Escuelas Públicas de Detroit.

Thanedar, en una publicación del lunes por la noche en X, anteriormente Twitter, respondió a la detención: "ICE ¡No deberían estar deteniendo a estudiantes de preparatoria! Maykol Bogoya-Duarte solo necesita 3 créditos para graduarse, pero fue puesto bajo custodia por ICE. Debería ser liberado de inmediato y permitirle obtener su diploma. Nikolai Vitti, superintendente del distrito, informó a Chalkbeat la semana pasada que el departamento de policía del sistema escolar había abogado por el estudiante.

Sin embargo, el distrito no notificó a los estudiantes ni a las familias del arresto, porque Maykol no estaba "bajo la protección y responsabilidad" del sistema escolar cuando ICE lo detuvo, afirmó Vitti.

Robinson afirmó que la notificación sobre el incidente o futuros casos similares brindaría tranquilidad a las familias sobre cómo responde el distrito en estas situaciones.

"Creo que la gente espera algo así del distrito escolar", dijo Robinson.

Además de abogar por la liberación de Maykol para que el adolescente pueda terminar sus estudios, el abogado señaló que el distrito debe garantizar que sus políticas y prácticas apoyen las necesidades de los miembros de la comunidad con problemas migratorios.

Eso incluye asegurarse de que los estudiantes y el personal comprendan sus derechos en las interacciones con las autoridades, añadió.

En Nueva York, la detención de un estudiante ha recibido amplia atención y ha generado demandas de defensores y líderes políticos para su liberación. (Desde entonces, otro adolescente ha sido detenido). De igual manera, La detención de un adolescente en Massachusetts provocó manifestaciones.

En comparación, se ha prestado menos atención a la difícil situación de Maykol.

Matson afirmó que su caso no es menos importante que lo sucedido en otros estados.

"Siento que los demócratas en Michigan no han defendido realmente a nuestra población inmigrante", declaró.

Los grupos de defensa que exigen la liberación de Maykol piden a los miembros de la comunidad que asistan a la reunión de la junta del Distrito Comunitario de las Escuelas Públicas de Detroit el martes en la escuela secundaria Martin Luther King Jr. para instar a los líderes escolares a hacer declaraciones públicas.

Los defensores de la inmigración también animan a los miembros de la comunidad a llamar a las oficinas de legisladores estatales y nacionales, así como a ICE.

******

Lori Higgins es la jefa de la oficina de Detroit. Puede contactarla en lhiggins@chalkbeat.org.

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Chalkbeat es un sitio web de noticias sin fines de lucro que cubre el cambio educativo. En las escuelas públicas. Suscríbase al boletín informativo gratuito de Chalkbeat Detroit para mantenerse al día con el sistema de escuelas públicas de la ciudad y las políticas educativas de Michigan.

Traducción Carmen Elena Luna

ICE Detention of Detroit Student

Con't from page 1

governor, several Democratic members of the state's congressional delegation, and Detroit school district leaders to fight for Maykol's release so he can complete his schooling in the U.S.

"At this time of the year, students should be focused on graduation and summer," said Ruby Robinson, senior managing attorney with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC), who is representing Maykol. "And here we have a student on precious time who is being deported. He should be able to finish his studies."

Maykol is only 3.5 credits away from graduating, Robinson said, and would likely be able to finish school around the end of the calendar year.

His attorney said he is asking to be released and granted a stay of deportation to see his studies through before returning to Colombia.

Maykol was arrested on May 20 after he attempted to join a school field trip to Lake Erie Metropark, about 25 miles from Detroit. While driving with three other students in the car, Maykol was pulled over for tailgating another vehicle, said Robinson.

The teen was asked to provide his driver's license but only had a City of Detroit identification card. Michigan does not currently issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants.

The local police officers who pulled Maykol over could not speak Spanish and had trouble communicating with him, Robinson said, so they called Customs and Border Protection.

"An important aspect of this story is that local police, instead of relying on internal translation services, were relying on Border Patrol agents to interpret for them," said Robinson.

The practice of calling on Border Protection for traffic stops with people who can't speak English could be interpreted as racial profiling, the attorney said.

Randy Krause, chief of the Rockwood Police Department, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Maykol, who came to the U.S. at 16, received a final deportation order in 2024. After that, Maykol was working with ICE and the Colombian Consulate to obtain the travel documents he needed to depart the country, according to his attorney.

"We were in compliance with their order," said Robinson, adding the documents are required in order to board an airplane out of the country. "It takes time for those documents to be generated."

He was still in the process of arranging to return to Colombia with his mother when he was arrested. It's unclear if he would have been able to graduate before leaving.

On Monday afternoon (June 9), Robinson and Maykol's family didn't know where he was. They believed he was being moved from the Chippewa County Correctional Facility to another location early Monday morning, the attorney said.

"We expect when he does reach where he will spend the night tonight, we will be able to find him, or he will be able to make a phone call to us or his mom," said Robinson.

The attorney said because of the high number of people detained by ICE, the agency places them wherever bed space is available.

"We're seeing people detained in far parts of Michigan," he said. "We're also seeing people being sent to Ohio and other places as well."

Advocates want Michigan leaders to speak out

By Monday afternoon, nearly 900 people had signed a petition asking Michigan officials to condemn Maykol's arrest, urge for him to be released to complete his high school education, and "to put preventative policies in place to better support immigrant students and families."

Three advocacy groups — 482Forward, MI Students Dream, and the People's Assembly — created the petition.

Lindsey Matson, the deputy director of 482Forward, said the advocacy effort is aimed at raising awareness of the issue and the petition, if it gains traction, will put pressure on those who have the power to intervene.

"Even a statement from the school board will be helpful," Matson added.

The petition calls for action from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, U.S. Sens. Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin, U.S. House Reps. Shri Thanedar and Rashida Tlaib, and the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

Thanedar, in a Monday evening post on X, formerly Twitter, responded to the detention, saying: "ICE should not be detaining high schoolers! Maykol Bogoya-Duarte just needs 3 credits to graduate, but was put in detention by ICE. He should be released immediately and allowed to get his diploma."

Nikolai Vitti, superintendent of the district, told Chalkbeat last week that the school system's police department had advocated on the student's behalf.

But the district did not notify students and families of the arrest because Maykol was not "under the protection and responsibility" of the school system when ICE detained him, said Vitti.

Con't on p. 13

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What to Do When Detroit Air Is Polluted with Wildfire Smoke

By Isabelle Tavares / Reprinted from Planet Detroit

Wildfire smoke poses a health risk to everyone, but certain individuals are more susceptible to illness.

Wildfires in Canada caused severe air quality issues in Detroit in 2023, impacting residents with preexisting health conditions and vulnerable populations – and may have killed more than 100 people in Michigan alone. And the summer of 2025 is off to a rough start.

Who's most affected by wildfire smoke?

- People with chronic conditions like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or heart disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Those who are pregnant.
- Children.
- Wildfire first responders.

Wildfire smoke health impacts

- Coughing, trouble breathing, wheezing.
- Asthma attacks.
- Stinging eyes, scratchy throat, runny nose.
- Headaches.
- Tiredness.
- Chest pain, fast heartbeat.

What to do when the air is smoky

- Choose a room you can close off from outside air, according to guidance from the CDC.
- Set up a portable air cleaner or a filter to keep the air in this room cleaner even when it's smoky outdoors or in the rest of your home.
- Avoid burning anything indoors, including candles, gas, propane, incense, wood, or cigarettes.
- If you have a central air conditioning system, use high efficiency filters (MERV 13 or higher if your system can use it) to help clean the air. If your system has a fresh air intake, set the system to recirculate mode or close the outdoor intake damper.
- If you have to go outside, wear a respirator. Reduce your smoke exposure by wearing a NIOSH approved respirator. A respirator is a face covering that fits tightly to your face to filter out smoke before you breathe it in.
- Keep track of fires near you. Listen to the Emergency Alert System and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio for emergency alerts.
- Monitor fires in your area using mapping tools, like AirNow's Fire and Smoke Map and NOAA's fire weather outlook.

Editor's Note: Hyperlinks in this article can be found online in the original article at www.PlanetDetroit.org.

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Isabelle Tavares is a Community Reporter with Report for America. She covers environmental and public health impacts in Southwest Detroit for Planet Detroit. Working in text, film and audio, she is a Dominican-American storyteller who is concerned with identity, generational time, and ecology.

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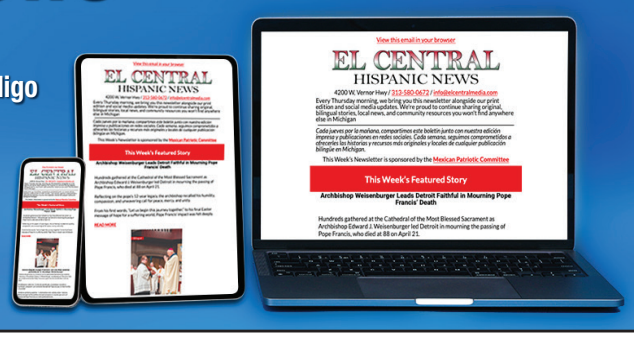

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Balancing safety and community in Southwest Detroit: Lessons from Clark Park's revitalization

In Southwest Detroit, Clark Park stands as a testament to community resilience, evolving from a site of drug activity and violence into a vibrant neighborhood hub. This transformation, driven by grassroots initiatives and city collaborations, highlights the power of community-centered policing, though it sparks debate over police roles in public spaces.

by Isabelle Tavares | Reprinted from Planet Detroit | Photos and captions by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

Overview:

- Clark Park was once plagued by drug activity, violence, and neglect.
- Factors such as the formation of the Clark Park Coalition, presence of city's Neighborhood Police Officer program played a role in park's comeback.
- "Clark Park has always been special because it's citizen-driven, with neighbors taking care of that space," said Detroit Police Officer Alexis Kellogg.

Students from Amelia Earhart Middle School play basketball after school at Clark Park in Southwest Detroit on June 3, 2025. The group of friends regularly gathers at the park to unwind and socializes.

One afternoon in the late 1980s, longtime Southwest Detroit resident Deb Sumner and her neighbors in Hubbard Farms gathered at Clark Park to discuss community improvements. Their meeting was interrupted by a gunshot overhead, forcing them to crawl through the park and take cover in the YMCA building. For Sumner, it was a pivotal moment.

"I said, 'This is not going to happen again,'" Sumner recalled. "We'll take it into our own hands."

For decades, the park on Vernor Highway has reflected both the challenges and triumphs of the surrounding neighborhood. Once plagued by drug activity, violence, and neglect, the park is now a thriving community hub thanks to grassroots efforts, city partnerships, and a unique approach to public safety that blends community accountability with selective police engagement. Yet tensions remain over the role of law enforcement, raising questions about what it means to create a safe and welcoming public space.

Twice, Sumner and others mobilized to save the park, forming the Clark Park Coalition in 1991 to introduce youth sports and educational

Shiloh Marks gives her 3-year-old niece, Naomi Thomas, a piggyback ride at Clark Park.

programs and preserve its historic ice rink. Today, Clark Park is a model of community-led revitalization—a forested urban oasis in Southwest Detroit where families gather to play sports, cool off at the splash pad, or enjoy a peaceful retreat.

The park has largely shed its troubled past. In the 1980s, crack cocaine fueled drug dealing and gang turf wars in the area. By 2008, the park faced near-closure as the city struggled to pay utility bills, mow the grass, or maintain amenities. Benches were absent, paths were unlit, and play equipment was sparse.

Community efforts led by advocates like Sumner brought resources to Clark Park. The Detroit Police Department launched a Neighborhood Police Officer program in 2014 to improve safety and foster community engagement.

John Sotto, 17, fills a water bottle at one of the public fountains inside Clark Park while teammate Santiago Zamora, also 17, stands nearby. Both are players for the Western International High School Cowboys baseball team and train daily at the park. "Without this park, it would be harder to practice," said Zamora, who pitches for the team.

Anthony Benavides, director and cofounder of the Clark Park Coalition, said he's gauging residents' feelings about police in the park.

Clark Park is a beloved community hub, though incidents still occur.

"Most people I've spoken with feel safer with police here," Benavides said. "I know people have trauma with the police. But the more activities and eyes you have in the park, the less you rely on the police."

Patricia Marks, 66, wraps her granddaughter Naomi Thomas, 3, in a towel after water play.

Between 2016 and 2024, there were 135 police calls associated with Clark Park, according to records obtained by Planet Detroit from the Detroit Police Department through the Freedom of Information Act.

"Special attention" is the most frequent category, logging 28 calls. The category means the park was marked for officers to visit while driving by, according to a spokesperson for the Detroit Police Department. EMS or medical-related calls appear 20 times. This category includes heart problems, chest pain, or a fall with serious hemorrhage. Disturbance, assault and battery, and investigation account for 26 calls total.

These numbers do not account for multiple calls for the same incident. For example, on Sept. 28, 2019, DPD received four calls within 6 minutes for an unconscious person.

According to the DPD records, there was one reported rape in 2017, and one reported kidnapping in 2019.

Calls for conflict resolution after recent violence

Courtney McCarty, a Southwest resident of eight years, was at the park's sandboxes enjoying the spring weather with her children when another park goer calmly informed her of a gunshot.

McCarty, who was with a group of other mothers and their children on March 18, left around 6 p.m., about 20 minutes after police say a man was shot in a dispute on the basketball court. Jackson Vidaurri, a spokesperson for the Detroit Police Department, said the suspect, Demetrius Walton, 51 of Detroit, is alleged to have gone to his vehicle before returning to the argument and shooting the victim, a male in his 20s, and fleeing the scene.

The shooting was non-fatal and the victim was privately transported to a local hospital and listed in stable condition. Officers were able to identify the suspect and arrest him the same day, Vidaurri said.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office charged Walton with assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, felonious assault with a dangerous weapon, and felony firearm counts. Walton stood mute at his March 20 arraignment and a plea of not guilty was entered on his behalf. A trial in the case is scheduled for June.

McCarty said she still appreciates the park despite the incident.

"This was a reactive fight, it wasn't this faceless villain being violent for the sake of being violent," she said.

The proximity to Clark Park was "huge" in her decision to move to the area, and she said she loves the diversity and community feel.

"I do feel pretty safe still, but there is a piece of me that looks over at the basketball courts and I have a moment that I didn't have before, of a little uncertainty," McCarty said.

She said she's unsure if having more police in the park is right for the community, and suggested a conflict de-escalation campaign or signs to be put up around the sports areas.

"I wonder if there's an opportunity for the community to reflect on: this is not who we want to be, and this is a safe place," McCarty said.

Cinco de Mayo arrests highlight divide over police

The neighborhood police program, launched by former Detroit Police Chief James Craig, aims to improve policing by assigning community officers who build relationships with residents and have a personal connection to the area.

Officers receive a 2.5% step increase to their salary when they become NPOs, according to a DPD NPO Community Outreach Strategic Plan. The NPO budget increased by $1.9 million citywide from fiscal 2024 to 2025. This year, the 4th Precinct received $436,412 for its NPO program, up by over $19,000 since 2024.

Additionally, the mayor's office approved $986,235 in health department funds to support community violence intervention in fiscal 2025.

Neighborhood police officers are assigned to precincts after an interview process and

Neighborhood Police Officers

This is a breakdown of the Neighborhood Police Officer program from the Detroit Police Department by precinct showing the number of officers and the 2025 fiscal year budget.

PRECINCT	# OF OFFICERS	FY 25 BUDGET
Downtown	2	$432,151
2nd	6	$545,033
3rd	6	$544,982
4th	5	$436,412
5th	4	$539,709
6th	4	$541,787
7th	6	$435,879
8th	7	$651,953
9th	8	$543,916
10th	6	$436,412
11th	6	$435,930
12th	6	$544,500

Sources: DPD FOIA NPO Budget Allocations Table: Isabelle Tavares Source: Detroit Police Department Get the data Created with Datawrapper

must maintain good discipline records, according to Cmdr. Shelley Holderbaum of the 4th Precinct, which includes Clark Park. In Southwest Detroit, two Spanish-speaking Hispanic officers recently joined the program. Officers often attend community events at churches, schools, and parks.

Nationally, community policing programs have drawn criticism, with detractors arguing they attempt to "whitewash" systemic racialized violence in policing. Critics say the programs are costly public relations efforts that fail to reduce crime or provide meaningful community services.

Holderbaum said she believes the program shows promise in Southwest Detroit. The 4th Precinct had the lowest crime rate and the fewest 911 calls in the city in 2024. Robberies, sex crimes, and non-fatal shootings declined from 2023 in the 4th Precinct, although homicides rose, mirroring a citywide trend, Holderbaum said at a September 2024 Board of Police Commissioners meeting.

Homicides, nonfatal shootings, robberies, and carjackings are down citywide from 2024 so far this year, Deputy Chief Arnold Williams said at an April 10 Board of Police Commissioners meeting.

Holderbaum, a Hubbard Farms resident and 25-year police veteran, said she remembers when the park was far less safe.

"It really wasn't a great place to be," she said. "I used to run in the park and think, 'I better be able to outrun them.'" She said families now thank her for making the park feel safe again. "It's hard work, but I wouldn't trade my job for anything."

Fabian E. and Alfredo O., both 14, relax on a shaded play structure. The teens, who live nearby, often stop at the park after school to unwind and spend time outdoors.

Ymelda López, 41, stands beside her 8-year-old daughter, Angelina Hernández, seated on an adaptive swing at Clark Park. A neighborhood resident, López says she often stops at the park with her daughter after school, drawn by its calm atmosphere and safe environment. "If it weren't for this park, we'd just go straight home," she said.

Officer Alexis Kellogg joined the neighborhood police program in 2020 after six years on midnight patrol, describing the switch as going "from special ops to the Peace Corps." Growing up across the street from Clark Park in the 1980s, Kellogg called it her "whole world," recalling frequent volunteering despite the park's gang presence.

"If you weren't in the gang, you just lived your life," she said. She emphasized that Clark Park's revitalization stands out because it's driven by the community. "Clark Park has always been special because it's citizen-driven, with neighbors taking care of that space," Kellogg said.

The police department budget totaled $441,850,719 in fiscal 2025, which ends June 30, for the year. Along with over $5 million in community engagement, including 116 community policing programs, over $80,000 was appropriated for the citizens patrol, which includes 18 groups across the city, and more than $27 million in communications operations.

Detroit's ShotStoppers program, a community violence intervention program where community groups define and roll out their own violence reduction strategy, achieved 30% to 70% declines in homicides and shootings in late 2023 and early 2024 in the geographic areas where the program was enacted, according to the mayor's office.

Some Southwest Detroit residents say they feel less secure when police are present at community events. In July 2024, residents and groups including SW Fest, Garage Cultural, Detroit Will Breathe, and the Coalition for Police Transparency and Accountability held a hearing at Clark Park to address concerns about police actions at recent events.

Xavier Cuevas, a Detroit photographer, spoke at the hearing last summer about his experience of police heavy-handedness at last year's Cinco de Mayo parade. Cuevas said he was at a licensed venue when police told people inside to leave, citing a public safety concern, he said.

Cuevas said he walked a few blocks away and was arrested for failure to disperse. The charge against Cuevas was dismissed Jan. 31, 2025, according to 36th District Court records.

"Point three miles or so away from the place that I was told to disperse, I got arrested for failure to disperse," Cuevas said. "It's kind of funny if it wasn't so egregious."

A few weeks later, officers "abruptly interrupted" auditions for SW Fest held at Garage Cultural, the organization's director Amelia Duran said. More than 10 officers showed up in "full force over an alleged parking complaint" at 10:30 p.m. she said.

"There I was, pleading for them to back down so my youth could disperse safely, pleading for them to understand why their presence invoked fear and violence on us," Duran said. "And yet they stood for over an hour provoking us, mocking, and ridiculing us."

Cuevas said there is a pattern of increased police presence during community gatherings in Southwest.

Israel Thomas, 5, plays in the water jets at the splash pad. Her family celebrated her kindergarten graduation with a day at the park.

Juan Sánchez, head coach of the Western International High School Cowboys baseball team, maintains the infield at Clark Park.

Holderbaum said DPD's actions were necessary to ensure public safety and compliance with regulations. The department prioritized public safety, she said during the July hearing.

Chais Plascencia, a longtime Southwest resident with multigenerational ties to the neighborhood, said she would "love" to see more police in the park, on foot, horse, or bike.

"I personally have really never had bad influences with police officers," said Plascencia, adding that "The Cinco de Mayo stuff, that was not the best thing that we could possibly have done," referring to Detroit police department's detaining and ticketing of eight people during the 2024 parade, as reported by BridgeDetroit.

When there's an issue – a loose wild dog or someone experiencing a bad drug reaction – Benavides of the Clark Park Coalition said he gives the police a call. "They treat them like human beings and get them the help they need," he said.

'Organic' safety model

Sigal Hemy Spiegel, executive director of the Detroit Parks Coalition, said Clark Park brings "a ton of history, a ton of credibility" to the coalition, which advocates for city parks. She described Clark Park's safety approach as "organic," emphasizing community ownership and accountability.

"Everyone in the neighborhood is always watching each other's kids, keeping each other posted and safe … all of us learn from that," Hemy Spiegel said.

Listening sessions held by the coalition through April and May 2024 revealed that most participants felt safety was no longer a major concern at Clark Park. Attendees said the park "feels safer now than ever," crediting beautification efforts and community events for deterring vandalism. Most supported some police presence, particularly identifiable officers and camera surveillance, Hemy Spiegel said.

Queen L., a Detroit resident, uses a grabber to collect trash at Clark Park. As part of her volunteering, she assists with outdoor cleanup and other facility maintenance tasks.

Officer Kellogg said her unit doesn't have the capacity to "walk a beat" in the park due to the demands of addressing blight, abandoned vehicles, and other 311 requests through the city's SeeClickFix system.

Denise Lopez, owner of Vamonos, a cafe and fitness studio near the park on Vernor, used Clark Park as a testing ground for her business. While renovating her space, she hosted free cardio drumming, Zumba, and yoga classes in the park to build awareness.

"A lot of people remembered us from the park and came back," Lopez said. "I'm so grateful to collaborate with the park because it definitely helps our business."

After opening, Lopez continues to offer free summer classes in the park. Her early morning "Booty Camp" draws over a dozen participants.

For Sumner, a longtime volunteer, the park's progress over three decades is a point of pride.

"We are a generational legacy of success," Sumner said. "Kids who grew up here since 1991 have fallen in love with the park. Now they're bringing their own children to Clark Park."

Players from the Western International High School Cowboys baseball team stretch on the field at Clark Park. The team uses the park daily for practices.

Editor's Note: Hyperlinks in this story can be found in the original post at https://planetdetroit.org/

Isabelle Tavares (Community Reporter) covers environmental and public health impacts in Southwest Detroit for Planet Detroit with Report for America. Working in text, film and audio, she is a Dominican-American storyteller who is concerned with identity, generational time, and ecology.

Sold Out Comerica Hosts More Than 121,000 Fans For Tigers Vs. Cubs Series

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

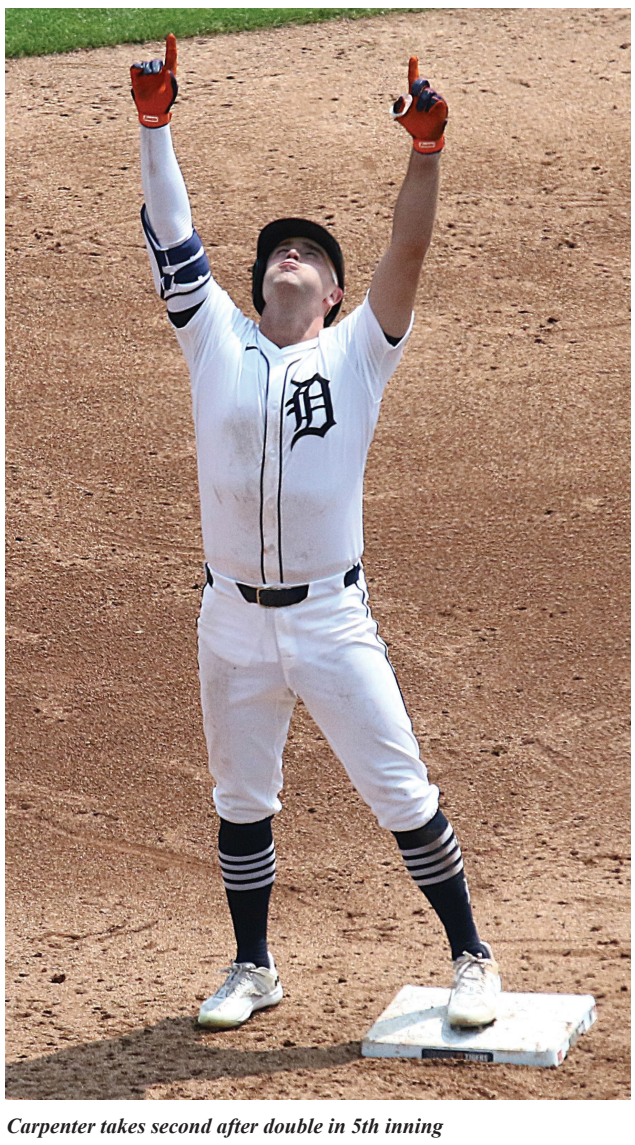
All photos and story by Mike Alberts/ EL CENTRAL

The Tigers took two out of three games against the Cubs. Sunday's game was electric, with Jack Flaherty holding the Cubs scoreless for six innings and nine strikeouts. The Cubs are the best team in the National League Central and one of the four best in the MLB. The win preserved the Tigers' best record in the Majors.

Before the Sunday game, George Gervin, "The Iceman," and Tarik Skubal exchanged greetings, balls, and a Jersey for the NBA Hall of Famer. Gervin is the coach for the new Detroit basketball team, the Amps, that will make its debut this July. Gervin is also a graduate of Martin Luther King Jr. High School.

Before the Sunday's game George Gervin "The Iceman" and Tarik Skubal exchanged greetings, balls, and a Jersey for the NBA Hall of Famer. Gervin is the coach for the new Detroit basketball team, the Amps, that will make its debut this July. Gervin is also a graduate of Martin Luther King Jr. High School.

The Tigers will be hosting the Cincinnati Reds, this weekend June 13th through June 15th



Carpenter takes second after double in 5th inning

Jack Flaherty pitching against the Cubs on Sunday

Tigers celebrating victory over the Cubs on Sunday

Cubs fans pack Comerica Park to watch the Cubs take on the Tigers

Before Sunday's game George Gervin "The Iceman" and Tarik Skubal exchanged greetings, balls, and a Jersey for the NBA Hall of Famer. Gervin is the coach for the new Detroit basketball team, the Amps, that will make its debut this July. Gervin is also a graduate of Martin Luther King Jr. High School.

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

City Woes Continue

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

The calendar may have flipped to June, but Detroit City FC has continued to look the same as they did in May. Le Rouge delivered a dreadful performance in Pittsburgh last weekend. The 2-0 loss doesn't really tell how far off the pace City was. They failed to register a shot on goal and earned their only corner kick in the third minute of second half stoppage time.

As they sink further in the standings, teams like the Pittsburgh Riverhounds are pouncing. The Steel City side has now closed the gap between themselves and Detroit City in fifth place to just three points. At the end of April, DCFC could be found near the top of the USL Championship's Eastern Conference. The gap to the top is now eight points and every other team has at least one game in hand on DCFC.

In his post match comments posted on X (previously known as Twitter), coach Danny Dichio made reference to a heated team meeting in the locker room after the game. He also called out the team for having "too many passengers." It's clear that quite a few of the squad haven't been up to the standard required since the end of April.

However, Dichio and Director of Football Trevor James put together this roster, calling it the deepest the team has ever had, a positive sign of greater investment. Results on the field are now wanting. There have been a number of player absences that have affected the overall performance. Captain Stephen Carroll and midfielder Ryan Williams did not make the trip to Pittsburgh. Midfielder Abdoulaye Diop signed a contract before the season, but hasn't been seen since. Their absences are sorely felt.

The team lacks pace and power in midfield. Teams are able to waltz through the pedestrian pairing of Jay Chapman and Dominic Gasso without breaking rhythm. One of them has to have a partner with the ability to cover a lot of ground as a ball winner. The wide players haven't provided enough service for Darrin Smith, who still has a decent scoring rate. After Smith, however, there isn't any secondary scoring threat.

DCFC used to be one of the league's leading defenses. That has disappeared. Carlos Herrera whiffed on Pittsburgh's second goal, leading to questions about the goalkeeper position, too. For the past seven weeks, nothing has been working. Next, DCFC will be playing against Loudon United, who are currently third in the Eastern Conference. That will be the last game on this extended road trip. The schedule for the rest of the season leans more towards home games at Keyworth. There is time to turn things around, but it won't last forever.

INDIVIDUAL ERRORS DOOM USA AGAINST TURKEY

With one year before the start of the World Cup, the USA finally found a spot in the schedule to bring in some tough European opposition. US manager Mauricio Pochettino had planned to have his top players in for an extended period this summer to play Turkey and Switzerland and then make a run at the CONCACAF Gold Cup. However, the FIFA Club World Cup, injuries, personal problems, and fatigue have reduced his squad to little more than a B team with a few expected starters.

Facing UEFA Championship quarterfinalist Turkey is not a task to take on at less than full strength for a modest team like the USA. Still, the MLS dominated squad jumped out to a quick lead. Jack McGlynn, one of several Philadelphia Union academy products on the roster, took a pass from Malik Tillman, cut in from the right and ripped a dipping shot beyond the Turkish goalkeeper to give Pochettino's men the perfect start. That took all of one minute.

That would be it for American offense. The US did work the ball well for the next twenty minutes or so without seriously threatening the opposing goal. Then, they worked the ball so poorly that they threatened their own goal. Johnny Cardoso, sought after by Atletico Madrid, dilly-dallied in front of his own goal and then slammed the ball off Arda Guler. Everybody watched the ball dribble past goalkeeper Matt Freese for the equalizer. Cardoso will have to live with that for a while, especially since Guler plays for Real Madrid.

Just two minutes later, the American defense engaged in some comical attempts to clear a loose ball. Miles Robinson failed on the final attempt before Kerem Aktürkoglu poked it by Freese. For the remainder of the first half the US flailed about, chasing the Turks without laying a glove on them. It was sad to watch.

Pochettino removed Cardoso and Robinson at halftime and brought on Toulouse defender Mark McKenzie and Bournemouth's Tyler Adams. Both added some stability. The Turks rarely threatened after the break. The Americans missed a number of well made chances. Left back Max Arfsten had two good looks when he got forward, but couldn't hit the target. Tillman, who had a great season with Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven, missed the best chance of all. Quinn Sullivan picked him out, unmarked in the middle of the goal with a lovely cross. Tillman looked certain to score, but headed it straight into the goalkeeper's arms.

The US has now lost three straight games in row. At least they have an immediate chance to change the momentum. The USA will meet Switzerland in Nashville this week in their final preparation game before the Gold Cup. The Americans will open the tournament on Sunday against Trinidad and Tobago. After exiting the Copa America at the group stage last year, the US and their new manager will be under heavy pressure to deliver a performance that gives the fan base some hope for next year.

Michigan Panthers In Championship Game !!!

The Michigan Panthers have made it to the UFL Championship game this Saturday, June 14th in Saint Louis, MO at 7:00 pm.

The Panthers defeated the Birmingham Stallions 44-29.

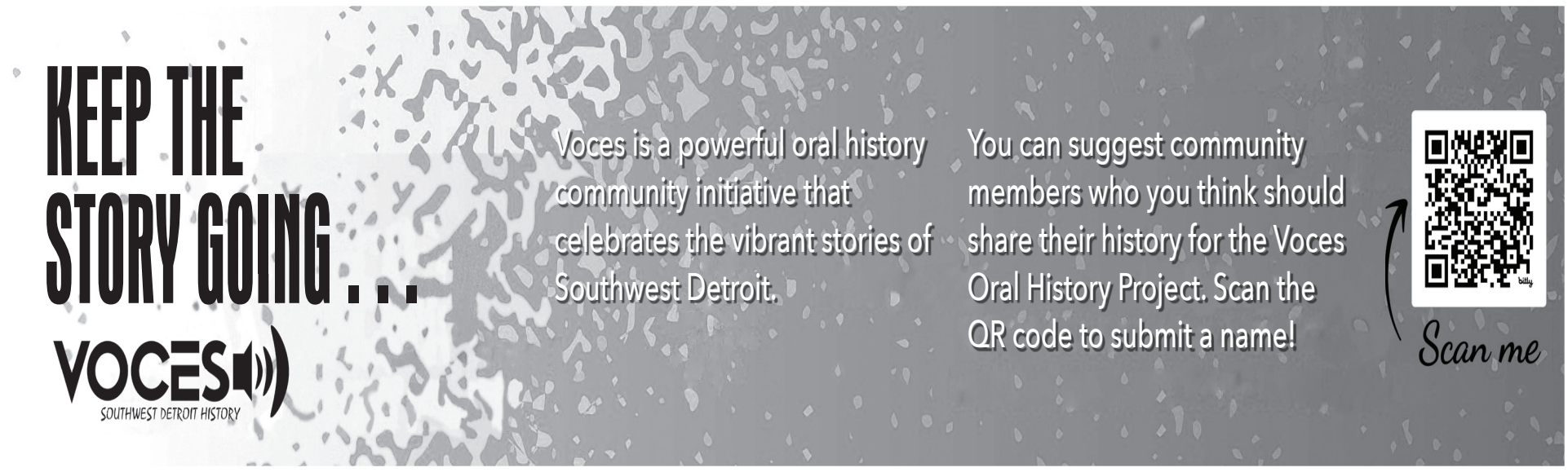
The Panthers will face the DC Defenders for the Championship.

The Panthers defeated the Defenders on May 4th, at Field, Field, 38-14.

We hope the Panthers winning ways continue on Saturday.

Photos below are highlights from the Michigan Panthers season and winning the conference.

Photo above provided by the Michigan Panthers and at right by Adam J. Dewey.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EL CENTRAL informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino/a community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

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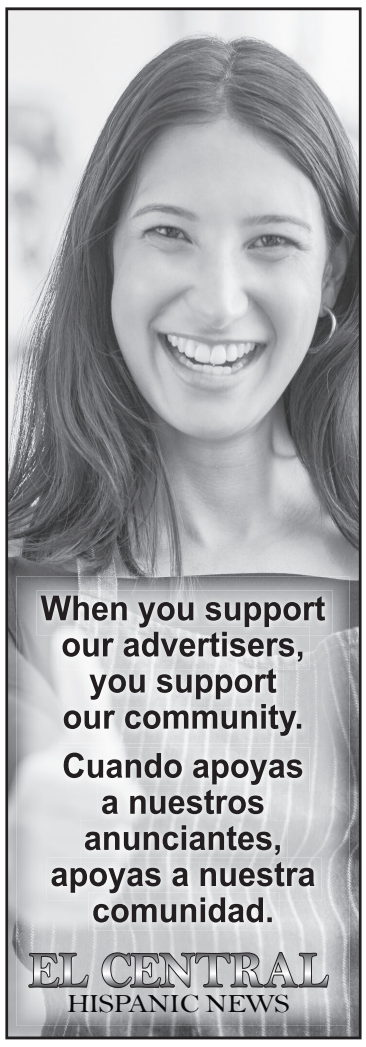
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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

The Coward Goes to War Against America

Trump wants Americans to turn violent. We will be steadfast.

By Robert Reich

The man who launched an attempted coup on the United States in 2020 and instigated an insurrection at the Capitol that resulted in five deaths now claims that people in Los Angeles are launching an insurrection. They're not.

On Monday, the Pentagon activated 700 Marines out of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California, to join the 4,000 federalized National Guard's military occupation of parts of Los Angeles.

Trump doesn't give a damn whether the troops are necessary. Nor does he care how many people are injured or even killed in his raid on Los Angeles. The show of military force is the point. It gives him the appearance of power.

Like any bully, Trump is fundamentally a coward. Humiliated by China, Harvard, the Supreme Court, Elon Musk, and the federal courts, Trump has launched a war inside America on vulnerable people inside America, in a place — California — most of whose inhabitants loathe him.

All of this was manufactured by Trump. It was and is his creation. The frightful specter of federally controlled troops in American streets has historically signaled a social crisis — forcing integration in Arkansas, protecting civil rights marchers in Alabama. But Trump is sending the military to Los Angeles at a time when state and local officials say there is no need.

Let's be clear: Trump and his lackeys want blood in the streets. They have been planning for it. "Looking really bad in L.A.," Trump wrote on Truth Social shortly after midnight Sunday night. "BRING IN THE TROOPS!!!"

The bully-in-chief has appointed a bunch of tin-pot bullies to every position of lethal force in the federal government — and is now activating them.

Secretary of Homeland Security Kristy Noam is a Trump stooge seemingly without understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Secretary of State Marco Rubio appears willing to go along with whatever Trump wants. Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller is a maniacal xenophobe. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth is a brain-dead Trump sycophant. Border czar Tom Homan is a toady who has not ruled out arresting California's leaders if they obstruct federal law enforcement.

The central struggle of civilization has always been to stop brutality. Unless we prevent the stronger from attacking or exploiting the weaker, none of us is safe.

A civil society is the opposite of what Trump seeks. A civil society doesn't allow the strong to brutalize the weak. It moves as far as possible away from brutality.

Every time the stronger brutalize the weaker — whether it's Trump and his flunkies bullying immigrants and the state of California, white supremacists bullying Black and Latino people, giant corporations bullying customers with high prices, the wealthy bullying the public to get giant tax cuts, Elon Musk bullying poor people by cutting programs they depend on, police bullying poor Black people, powerful men bullying women through sexual harassment, politicians building their power by bullying racial or ethnic minorities, Netanyahu wiping out Palestinians in Gaza, Putin trying to take over Ukraine — it's fundamentally the same playbook: Stoke fear. Exploit desperation. Suspend the rule of law. Fan brutality.

Unless the bullies are stopped, an entire society — even the world — can descend into chaos.

Our duty is to stop brutality. Our responsibility is to hold the powerful accountable. Our challenge is to stand up to abuses of power. Our moral obligation is to protect the vulnerable.

This week and through Saturday, protest but please do it peacefully. Do not be provoked into violence. Take videos of any brutality Trump's agents are wreaking, to show the rest of America and the world. Be smart. Be careful.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor
Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

ICE Detention of Detroit Student

Con't from page 5

Robinson said notification about the incident or future instances like it would provide reassurances to families about how the district responds in these situations.

"I think people are looking for something like that from the school district," said Robinson.

In addition to advocating for Maykol's release to allow the teen to finish school, the attorney said the district should ensure its policies and practices support the needs of community members with immigration challenges.

That includes making sure students and staff understand their rights in interactions with law enforcement, he added.

In New York, the detention of a student has gained widespread attention and calls from advocates and political leaders for his release. (A second teen has since been detained.) Similarly, the detention of a teenager in Massachusetts prompted rallies.

Less attention has been paid to Maykol's plight in comparison.

Matson said his case isn't less important than what has happened in the other states.

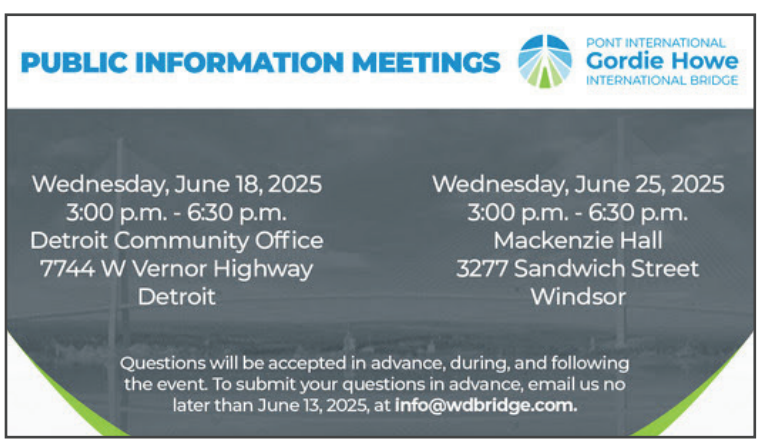
"I feel like Democrats in Michigan have not really stood up for our immigrant population here," she said.

The advocacy groups calling for Maykol's release are asking community members to attend the Detroit Public Schools Community District board meeting Tuesday at Martin Luther King Jr. High School to urge school leaders to make public statements.

Immigration advocates are also encouraging community members to call the offices of state and national lawmakers, as well as ICE.

Lori Higgins is the Detroit bureau chief. You can reach her at lhiggins@chalkbeat.org.

Hannah Dellinger covers K-12 education and state education policy for Chalkbeat Detroit. You can reach her at hdellinger@chalkbeat.org. Chalkbeat is a nonprofit news site covering educational change in public schools. Sign up for <u>Chalkbeat Detroit's free newsletter</u> to keep up with the city's public school system and Michigan education policy.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Gordie Howe
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Wednesday, June 18, 2025
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Detroit Community Office
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Detroit
Wednesday, June 25, 2025
3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Mackenzie Hall
3277 Sandwich Street
Windsor
Questions will be accepted in advance, during, and following the event. To submit your questions in advance, email us no later than June 13, 2025, at info@wdbridge.com.

DETROIT-WAYNE JOINT BUILDING AUTHORITY

The Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority is seeking proposals from qualified bidders for the demolition and repaving of the executive parking lot located at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center. The lot is approximately 13,700 square feet and has 45 parking spaces.

Project Scope of Work:

- Removal of 4" of existing asphalt
- Excavate parking lot 4 inches in compact base.
- Provide undercuts if required (include material cost per ton)
- Install 4 inches of asphalt
- Sealcoat new asphalt
- Restripe and number parking spaces in the exact layout of existing
- Rebuild three catch basins up to three rows of bricks to allow for proper drainage.
- Clean up all construction debris at the end of project

A mandatory pre-bid site walkthrough will be held on Thursday, June 19 at 10:00 AM. Meet in the parking lot near the guard shack located at the corner of Larned and Randolph. Additional information will be provided to all bidders at that time.

Proposals will be due by 12:00 PM on Friday, June 27 and a contract will be awarded on Wednesday, July 16. The project will be completed in mid-August.

All inquiries may be sent to mike.kennedy@hines.com

SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Nicaragua

León

The city of León, Santiago de los Caballeros de León, surrounded by volcanoes, is located 20 kilometers from the Pacific Ocean.

Despite having a population of nearly 230,000, it is considered the intellectual center of Nicaragua. This is due to the founding of the University of León, now the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, in 1812.

It was in León that the great poet Rubén Darío, "prince of Castilian letters," died. He brought modernism to Latin American literature with his great collection of poems, Azul.

It is the second largest city in the country, with colorful architecture of tiled roofs and a colonial style that seems frozen in time.

Between 1747 and 1814, the construction of the Insigne and Royal Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, better known as León Cathedral, was completed. It is the largest in the entire Central American region and is considered a World Heritage Site due to its splendid Baroque and Neoclassical architecture. The roof of the same is a great tourist spot due to its white floors and rounded due to the domes of the great church.

Recipe: Gallo Pinto

Ingredients:

1 pound white rice
1 pound cooked kidney red beans
5 tablespoons vegetable cooking oil
1 bell pepper or green pepper
1 medium onion

Preparation:

Start by making 1 pound of white rice, chop half an onion into small pieces, and add it to a pan or pot with two tablespoons of oil. When the onion has a golden consistency, add the rice, along with the 4 cups of water, and let it fry until it's very loose.

Then, let it cool slightly so it doesn't become soggy.

Then, sauté the beans, chop the other half of the onion into small pieces, and add it to a pan or pot with two tablespoons of Ideal Soya Oil. When it has a golden consistency, add the beans until they remain uniform. Avoid stirring them too much to prevent them from falling apart.

Use another pan with a tablespoon of oil. Use it alone to sauté rice and beans in the Gallo Pinto mixture until they turn purple.

Season it with finely chopped sautéed green chilies.

You can also add chunks of chicken or pork to give your Nicaraguan gallo pinto recipes that special touch.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Nicaragua is a country located on the Isthmus of Central America, and is also the largest in the entire Central American region, with less than seven million inhabitants. The Nicaraguan people are multiethnic, and Spanish is the official language, although indigenous languages such as Nicaraguan Creole English, Miskito, Sumu (or Sumo), Garifuna, and Rama are also recognized. It has coastlines on the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. It borders Honduras to the northwest and Costa Rica to the southeast. Its capital is Managua. Large and popular volcanoes can be found within its territory, such as San Cristóbal, the highest in the country. Cerro Negro, known for its sandboarding tourism, Masaya, with its active crater, and Momotombo, located near Managua. as well as two large lakes in the area heading towards the Pacific, Lake Cocibolca, the largest in the country, Lake Xolotlán and the Pearl Lagoon that borders the Atlantic Ocean.

Ruben Dario: Blue

Springtime

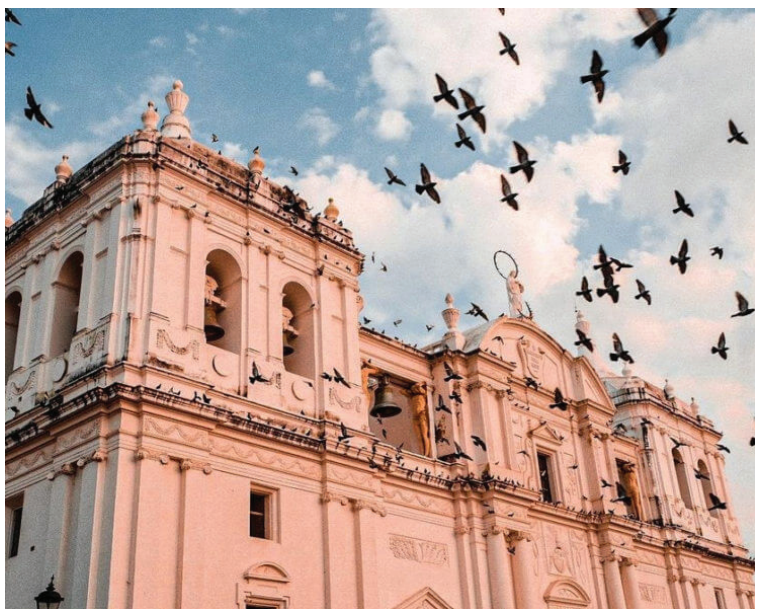
Month of roses. My rhymes
circle the vast forest,
stoop to pluck the scent of honey
from half-opened flowers.
Come to me, my love. The woods
are our great temple. There's a wave,
a whiff of the sacred perfume
of love. A bird flutters between the trees,
greets the beauty of your pink forehead
just as it would the dawn. And the oaks,
so tall, so square-shouldered and proud,
quiver as you pass,
their green leaves shuddering,
locking their branches in an arc
as if a queen were walking through.
My love, these are sweet
days: it is spring.

Gaze into my eyes through yours.
Offer the tangle of your hair
to the wind, let this ring of savage
light bask in the spender of the sun.
Give me your hands, those silky
roses, so I can hold them in mine.
Then laugh: bare your lips
of fresh, moist purple.
I will read you my poems
and you will smile as you listen.
If, by chance, a nightingale
settles close by and starts
to tell tales of nymphs,
of roses, of stars,
you will be deaf to its music,
its warbles. All regal and besotted,
you will listen to my songs instead,
watching the twitch of my lips.
My love, these are sweet
days: it is spring.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Nicaragua

León



La ciudad de León, Santiago de los Caballeros de León, rodeada de volcanes se encuentra a 20 kilómetros del Océano Pacífico. A pesar de contar con cerca 230,000 habitantes es considerada la sede intelectual de Nicaragua, esto se debe a que en 1812 se fundó la Universidad de León, actual Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua.

Fue en León donde murió el gran poeta Rubén Darío, "príncipe de las letras castellanas", y quien trajo el modernismo a la literatura latinoamericana con su gran poemario Azul.

Es la segunda ciudad más importante del país con una colorida arquitectura de techos de teja y estilo colonial parece congelarse en el tiempo.

Entre 1747 y 1814 se llevó a cabo la construcción La Insigne y Real Basílica Catedral de la Asunción de la Bienaventurada Virgen María, más conocida como Catedral de León, siendo ésta la más grande de toda la región centroamericana, considerada como Patrimonio de la Humanidad debido a su esplendorosa arquitectura barroca y neoclásica. La azotea de la misma es un gran punto turístico debido a sus suelos blancos y redondos debido a las cúpulas de la gran iglesia.

Nicaragua es un país ubicado en el Istmo de Centroamérica, siendo también el más grande de toda la región centroamericana contando con menos de siete millones de habitantes. El pueblo nicaragüense es de naturaleza multiétnica y el español es la lengua oficial, aunque también son reconocidas las lenguas de los pueblos indígenas originarios como el inglés criollo nicaragüense, misquito, Sumu o Sumo, Garífuna y Rama. Cuenta con costa en el Océano Atlántico y en el Oceáno Pacífico. Al noroeste colinda con Honduras y al sureste con Costa Rica. Su capital es Managua. En su territorio se pueden encontrar grandes volcanes con bastante popularidad, como es el volcán San Cristóbal, el más alto del país, también está el volcán Cerro Negro, conocido por su actividad turística de sandboarding, el volcán Masaya, con su cráter activo, y el volcán Momotombo, que se encuentra cerca de Managua; así como, dos grandes lagos en la zona rumbo al pacífico, el Lago Cocibolca, el más grande del país, el Lago Xolotlán y la Laguna de Perlas que colinda con el Océano Atlántico.

Receta: Gallo Pinto

Ingredientes:

1 libra Arroz blanco
1 libra Frijoles Rojos cocidos
5 cucharadas de aceite vegetal para cocinar
1 Chiltoma o Pimiento Verde
1 cebolla mediana

Preparación:

Comienza con hacer 1 libra de arroz blanco, corta media cebolla en trocitos y agrégalo a un sartén u olla con dos cucharadas de aceite. Cuando la cebolla tenga una consistencia doradita agrega el arroz, junto con las 4 tazas de agua y déjalo freír hasta que quede bien suelto.

Luego deja que se enfríe un poco para que no quede masudo.

Posteriormente pon a sofreír los frijoles corta la otra media cebolla en trocitos y agrégalo a un sartén u olla con dos cucharadas de Aceite Ideal Soya cuando tenga consistencia doradita, agregas el frijol de tal forma que se mantengan su consistencia entera. Evita moverlos demasiado para que no se deshagan.

Utiliza otro sartén con una cucharada de aceite. Úsalo solo para sofreír el arroz y frijoles haciendo la mezcla del Gallo Pinto hasta que tomen un color morado.

Condiméntalo con Chiltoma verde sofrito bien picadito.

También puedes agregar trozos de pollo o cerdo dándole ese toque especial a sus recetas de gallo pinto nicaragüense.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
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Rubén Darío: Azul

Primaveral

Mes de rosas. Van mis rimas
en ronda a la vasta selva
a recoger miel y aromas
en las flores entreabiertas.
Amada, ven. El gran bosque
es nuestro templo; allí ondea
y flota un santo perfume
de amor. El pájaro vuela
de un árbol a otro y saluda
tu frente rosada y bella
como un alba; y las encinas
robustas, altas, soberbias,
cuando tú pasas agitan
sus hojas verdes y trémulas,
y enarcan sus ramas como
para que pase una reina.
¡Oh, amada mía! Es el dulce
tiempo de la primavera.

Mira en tus ojos, los míos,
da al viento la cabellera,
y que bañe el sol ese oro
de luz salvaje y espléndida.
Dame que aprieten mis manos
las tuyas de rosa y seda,
y ríe, y muestren tus labios
su púrpura húmeda y fresca.
Yo voy a decirte rimas,
tú vas a escuchar risueña;
si acaso algún ruiseñor
viniese a posarse cerca,
y a contar alguna historia
de ninfas, rosas o estrellas,
tú no oirás notas ni trinos,
sino, enamorada y regia,
escucharás mis canciones
fija en mis labios que tiemblan.
¡Oh, amada mía! Es el dulce
tiempo de la primavera.

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